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Inside APHIS

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The National Biological Control Institute: Promoting an Environmental Philosophy

by Courtney Billet,
Executive Correspondence, LPA

The idea of using one organism to control the population of another seems obvious to anyone who has ever used cats to control mice or goats to mow weeds. But some people don't know what scientists have known since the 1880's: that the same basic concept works wonders in controlling troublesome agricultural pests, such as alfalfa weevil, sweetpotato whitefly, and leafy spurge.

That's part of the reason why APHIS formed the National Biological Control Institute (NBCI). Directed by Ernest "Del" Delfosse, the Institute was established in 1988 to promote and facilitate the use of pests' natural enemies—predators, pathogens, and parasites—as an environmentally friendly, cost-effective alternative to pesticides.

New Direction

Through biological control, pest populations can be suppressed by enhancing the action of a pest's indigenous natural enemies or, in the case of foreign pests that have entered this country, importing their exotic natural enemies to the problem area.

"Although biological control is not a panacea, the basic techniques can be used to suppress pest densities to levels where they are no longer perceived as pests," says Delfosse.

This concept is becoming increasingly popular in a world more conscious than ever before about the undesirable effects of chemical pest control.

"There is a strong realization that all of us in this field need to start



APHIS PHOTO

Importations of several exotic parasites of the alfalfa weevil have reduced alfalfa damage as well as insecticide applications in the United States. Here, the exotic parasite *Microtonus* sp. deposits eggs into an adult weevil.

taking a more global perspective," says Delfosse. "We need to step back, look at what we are doing in terms of modern science, and ask ourselves: Can we do it easier? Can we do it better? Has it already been done?"

NBCI is working to minimize these problems by developing a national network of individuals and organizations within the field that would help them obtain information to further the coordinated development of biological control's scientific and technological capabilities and increase their application.

In addition to Institute Director Delfosse, this pursuit involves the full-time efforts of Technical Coordinator Michael Orazz and Technical Consultant Robert Flanders.

Services Abound

To help expedite the exchange of information, NBCI established an electronic bulletin board. Accessible through a toll-free telephone line, it contains useful information, such as a calendar of meetings and events; announcements of available resources, positions, and grants; and meeting and newsletter reports.

The system also offers a message service, electronic mail capabilities, and conferences among users with special interests. A University of Maryland co-op student, Joseph Hancock, is enthusiastically pursuing additional capabilities for the system.

Plans are also underway for a National Biological Control Information System. (See *BIOCONTROL* on page 6)

Bert W. Hawkins Dies of Heart Attack

Former APHIS Administrator (1983-87), Bert Hawkins, died on Thursday, Nov. 12, after suffering a heart attack. Throughout his life, Hawkins' involvement in animal health has been great and the list of his achievements long.

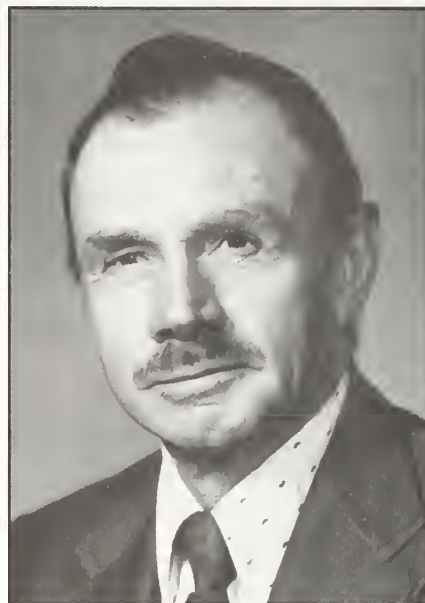
A retired reserve lieutenant colonel, who was a pilot during World War II, Hawkins ventured into ranching in 1947.

Under Hawkins' direction, APHIS, among other things, battled and eradicated a serious outbreak of avian influenza, eradicated one of the largest Mediterranean fruit fly outbreaks in this country, established new programs, and reorganized others. To him, APHIS was an agency that "could be likened to a baseball team spread out across the field, with each player there for one basic reason: to protect home plate."

After leaving APHIS in 1987, Hawkins assisted the Office of International Cooperation and Development as a special assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture.

"Bert Hawkins often used the allegory of the Three-Horse Evener," said Associate Administrator Lonnie King, "in describing the need for the Federal Government, State government, and agricultural industries to all equally share responsibilities and pull together to achieve mutual goals. As a true champion of U.S. agriculture, he was an effective leader from all three perspectives of his allegory. APHIS and indeed U.S. agriculture will always remember his many achievements and are thankful for his tenure with us as Administrator."

He is survived by his wife Ardis, his son, and daughter.



APHIS PHOTO

Bert W. Hawkins, APHIS Administrator 1983-87.

Letters to the Editor

Letter to APHIS Employees:

Thank you to the many APHIS employees who contributed to the Hurricane Andrew Relief Fund, which was highlighted in the Sept. edition of Inside APHIS.

Hurricane Andrew seriously affected several APHIS employees, and a number of relief efforts were initiated throughout APHIS to help those in need. The Hurricane Andrew Relief Fund accepted contributions from Sept. 3 until Oct. 9, and we recently distributed over \$1,700 in donations. Representatives from each program with employees in the affected areas helped identify individuals who were in need of assistance. We appreciate the efforts of the program contacts who helped us in this endeavor—we could not have done it without you.

We were also very touched and pleased by the outpouring of generosity from active and retired APHIS employees, both at headquarters and in the field. Included with many of the donations were notes of good wishes and hope for the affected employees. A heartfelt thanks for all of the donations and messages.

You, as APHIS employees, have pulled together to help one another in a time of need. Your response is a

moving reminder of the spirit of cooperation and comradery in which we work. We are proud to be part of this organization.

*Cheri Oswalt and
Paula Henstridge,
coordinators of APHIS'
Hurricane Andrew Relief Fund*

To APHIS Employees:

Thank you from Kauai, HI, after Hurricane Iniki. In the aftermath of Hurricane Iniki, the PPQ staff of the port of Lihue, Kauai, HI, would like to take this opportunity to extend our deepest aloha and mahalo's (thanks) to everyone for their concern and support in helping out the PPQ staff. We are grateful and appreciative of everything that has been done.

We have expressed our thanks to many individuals, but for those we have not recognized, we extend our apologies. We also send this thank you to all those who have helped with their prayers and support.

*Carol Russell,
PPQ officer, Lihue, HI*

Inside APHIS

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Pine Shoot Beetle Prompts Christmas Tree Quarantine

On Nov. 13, APHIS announced the establishment of a quarantine on six Northeastern States to prevent the spread of the pine shoot beetle to uninfested areas of the United States. APHIS and State officials are currently cooperating to restrict the movement of pine products from 42 infested counties in Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Pennsylvania, New York, and Indiana. Certificates or limited permits are now required to move pine Christmas trees, nursery stock, and bark-covered pine, spruce, larch, and fir logs and lumber. PPQ's Deputy Administrator B. Glen Lee believes the quarantine will significantly reduce the risk of the beetle spreading to other regions of the country while allowing most producers to continue moving their product.

The leading pest of pine in Europe, pine shoot beetles were first discovered in this country in July on a Christmas tree in a farm in Ohio. Since then, APHIS and State officials have been conducting surveys to determine the extent of the infestation. Most of the beetles have been found on Christmas tree farms. The pine shoot beetle is known for attacking new shoots of pine trees

and stunting their growth.

Doing Your Part

Because the pine shoot beetle breeds in dead and dying pine trees, proper disposal of leftover and unsold Christmas trees is essential in preventing the pest's spread. All Christmas trees originating from pine shoot beetle-infested areas

must be either burned, chipped, or fumigated promptly after Dec. 25. Not doing so can result in fines up to \$1,000 per count. For more information about disposal methods, contact PPQ's Bob Foster, Assistant Operations Officer, at (301) 436-8247 or write him at Room 643, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, MD 20782.

Secretarial Focus

Procedurally Speaking

by Linda Story, Program Manager, Operation Jumpstart

At times, the preparation of correspondence can be mind boggling. Getting a rush assignment out on time while assuring it is free of errors and assembled correctly can be a difficult task. When you consider all that goes into the proper completion of a project, it's easy to understand the reason for much of our frustration. It may be helpful to remember that the daily annoyances that bother you are usually just as frustrating to others in APHIS, regardless of their job.

The preparation of correspondence is very important, and Jean Reilly, Secretary to the Administrator, offers some valuable insight.

Why must I do it this way? Why must I make "x" number of copies? Why must I assemble it in this manner? How many times have each of us asked or been asked such questions when we are preparing correspondence in APHIS? At one time or another, we've all asked ourselves these questions. The answers are simple and basic—to provide uniformity and to save time.

The APHIS Correspondence Manual, the Government Printing Office Style Manual, the dictionary, and English reference books are all tools of our trade, and they are available to all of us. It's important that we read, become familiar with, and use them all regularly. Rather than ask a coworker a question on correspondence or grammar, take time to look up the answer yourself. That way, the chances are better that you'll remember the answer the next time around.

Even though the date on the

APHIS Correspondence Manual appears to be antiquated, the instructions are still correct. Although some changes have been made recently in the preparation of memorandums and letters for the Office of the Secretary, they only affect the headquarters staff, and instructions have been provided accordingly.

There are plans to update the APHIS Correspondence Manual. A draft was prepared some time ago, but, to keep all instructions uniform, its publication has been delayed until the Department issues its own new manual. In the meantime, continue to use the tools available to you and follow the correspondence guidelines. These rules apply to everyone in APHIS—the field, the headquarters staff, the Deputy Administrators' or Directors' offices, as well as the Office of the Administrator.

Be proud of your work. If something is wrong with the correspondence you prepare, such as a wrong letterhead, a word that is not capitalized, or a missing envelope, do not mail it or put it into the clearance channel. The error will only be caught and the correspondence returned for correction.

The correspondence we send to others—whether it is another agency, a State official, a university, or the general public—reflects on you, your supervisor, APHIS, and the Department. Let us strive to make everything we do a "masterpiece" because, like a good piece of art, it will have our signature on it.



Plum Island: The Well-Scrubbed Side of APHIS

By Sharon Scheidhauer, Executive Correspondence, LPA



APHIS PHOTO

Plum Island, a short ferry ride across Long Island Sound from New York or Connecticut.

Each workday morning, the 26 APHIS employees of USDA's Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (FADDL) make an unusual commute to work. After driving through beautiful northeastern Long Island, they abandon their cars for a pleasant ferry ride across the Long Island Sound.

Fifteen minutes later, they reach their destination—Plum Island—and drive or bicycle to their office or laboratory.

The facility to which these employees travel each day is located on this Island, not because it is inexpensive real estate by New York standards, but because the nature of their work demands isolation.

The Plum Island Animal Disease Center is actually an Agricultural Research Service (ARS) facility devoted to researching foreign animal diseases. APHIS shares the island with ARS and carries out foreign animal disease diagnosis, training, and reagent production and distribution there. USDA's ultimate goal with these programs is to prevent such diseases from endangering U.S. livestock populations.

In Fiscal Year 1991 alone, APHIS officials at FADDL performed over 32,000 diagnostic tests to detect the presence of foreign animal disease agents. The samples that are tested come from several sources—APHIS field veterinarians suspecting an

exotic disease in domestic livestock; an animal import center testing animals for foreign diseases; or animal health professionals from other countries who need assistance with a diagnosis.

Plum Island is totally self-contained. Besides the APHIS diagnostic laboratory and the ARS research complex, the island has its own fire

department, generator, sewage-treatment facility, ambulance, cafeteria, library, and laundry. It even has a helicopter pad, should inclement weather keep the ferry away.

In case of an emergency, at least one scientist must be present on the island at all times. To accommodate overnight guests, the island has a house that is complete with living quarters.

Clean as a Whistle

Because APHIS scientists work with infectious disease agents foreign to the United States, the island location is necessary to minimize the possible escape of these agents to the U.S. mainland. But this is certainly not the only security measure that is taken.

Upon arrival at the laboratory, employees and visitors alike proceed to a locker room and shed their street clothes. They then step across the shower room into a dressing area where, courtesy of the U.S. Government, they are provided with freshly laundered surgical scrubs, socks, sneakers, and, yes, even Uncle Sam underwear.

Employees must take showers before entering and leaving animal-holding pens and going between



APHIS PHOTO

Charles Mebus, Laboratory Chief at FADDL, demonstrates necropsy techniques to a group of veterinary students in the Smith-Kilborne Foreign Animal Disease training program.

rooms where different disease agents are present. Dino Lenzini, an animal caretaker, said he holds the Plum Island record (17) for the most showers taken in 1 day.

Whenever anything leaves the laboratory or is to be disposed of, various precautions are taken to ensure all traces of infectious disease agents are removed. For instance, all supplies and equipment are thoroughly fumigated; air leaving the laboratory undergoes an extensive filtration process; liquid waste is heated to high temperatures; and solid waste is burned to fine ash and buried. Bug traps are also hung throughout the lab to ensure that insects, potential carriers of many animal diseases, don't escape.

It is essential that the complex systems that control the lab's air-handling equipment and sophisticated instrumentation be in proper working order at all times to assure building biocontainment. Skilled workers with the engineering and plant-management division continually monitor the safety systems, make emergency repairs, and construct equipment for research activities.

Because of their exposure to infectious animal disease agents, Plum Island employees are not permitted to live on farms. The only pets they can have are dogs and cats. All visitors to the Island must sign an affidavit agreeing to avoid contact with livestock for 7 days after leaving.

Plum Island has not always known such biosecurity measures. It was not until 1954 that the U.S. Government transferred the Island to USDA. Only then was it established as a laboratory for the study of foot-and-mouth disease and other exotic diseases of economically important domestic animals.

Before then, the island was used for coastal artillery fortification in World War I and anti-aircraft fortification in World War II. Signs of the island's history remain—such as the railroad tracks over which the Army moved submarine mines to and from ships during World War II.

Focus on Training

In addition to diagnostic work, an integral part of FADDL's mission is training animal health professionals in the recognition of foreign animal

diseases. "Through lectures and laboratory demonstrations, we provide veterinarians, scientists, lab technicians, professors, and veterinary students with an unparalleled opportunity to study the clinical signs and pathological changes caused by foreign animal diseases," explains Alfonso Torres, head of FADDL's Diagnostics Section.

APHIS scientists also conduct developmental work when they are not involved in diagnostic activities. They study exotic diseases to learn such things as how a disease spreads or the length of time viruses can survive in animal products.

As you have probably already guessed, leaving the facility involves more than gathering your things and walking out of the door. Back in the locker room, employees must remove their Government-issue clothes, cough, expectorate, blow their noses, clean under their fingernails, and scrub their hands before taking a thorough shower and returning to the entry area and dressing in their street clothes.

This routine ends another day at FADDL, and employees head back to the mainland—except, of course, for the one scientist staying behind as a security measure.



PHOTO BY J.R. EMMANUELLI

Alfonso Torres, head of the Diagnostic Services Section, uses an electron microscope to search for viruses in a diagnostic specimen.

Open Season Has Begun

It's that time of year again—the Federal Employees' Health Benefits (FEHB) open season. From Nov. 9 through Dec. 14, employees can enroll or change their current FEHB enrollment. Health Benefits Registration forms, SF-2809, can be obtained from the Field Personnel Services

(FPS) or the Customer Support Services. Only the following editions are usable: 7/84, 9/85, 8/86, 6/88, and 6/90. All completed forms must be mailed to the FPS by Dec. 14, 1992. All FEHB open season changes are effective Jan. 10, 1993.

Biocontrol from page 1

tion Center, which would merge the Institute's information services with the Agricultural Research Service's National Biological Control Documentation Center. Among other things, the new Center will provide access to databases containing information on the importation and release of biological control agents; directories of organizations, commercial suppliers of natural enemies, and biological control scientists; and news about ongoing projects and opportunities.

Projects in the Works

NBCI also provides funding for valuable projects that might not be eligible for grants. Projects being funded include publication of significant reports, development of additional databases, and studies on topics ranging from the impact of natural enemies on Russian wheat aphids to ways to ensure quality control of natural enemies marketed by commercial producers.

Funds are also being used to contract scientists from around the world to serve as consultants or provide other services that will help advance biological control in the United States. For example, a whitefly expert provided expertise on biological control approaches for the sweetpotato whitefly, a pest causing significant damage in California, Texas, and other States. In addition, a report was completed on the inter-

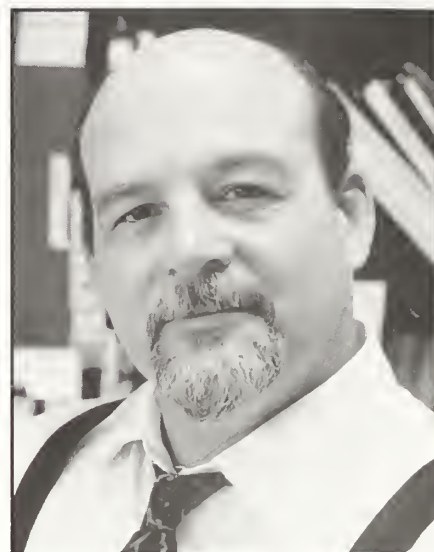
national scientific community's perception of NBCI and its potential international roles. His report will be used to help determine the future international direction of NBCI.

Spreading the Word on Biological Control

APHIS believes that, when appropriately applied and monitored, modern biological control is an environmentally safe and desirable form of long-term management of pest species. Although it is not a solution for all pest problems, NBCI believes biological control should replace chemical control as the base strategy for integrated pest management. As a result, the Institute's goal is not only to advance the science but to increase the public's awareness of its potential to control pest densities.

Delfosse says educators have requested tools, including specific lesson plans, for teaching children—tomorrow's pest controllers—about biological control strategies. The Institute is currently working with the National Science Teachers Association, the International Organization for Biological Control, and other groups to develop teaching materials.

In cooperation with the Live Educational Resource Network and EPCOT Center at Walt Disney World Resort, NBCI is also producing a live, interactive broadcast, described as a "video field trip," on pest management and the role of biologi-



APHIS PHOTO BY LAURIE SMITH

Ernest Delfosse, Director of the National Biological Control Institute.

cal control. The video is scheduled to air in February 1993 at schools across the United States and Canada.

The Institute is also developing initiatives to educate environmental groups, political leaders, and the general public about biological control. These activities are enhanced by Delfosse's position as Global President of the International Organization for Biological Control, a 4-year post to which he was elected earlier this year.

Renewing Regulations

Increasing information resources and education is of great importance in advancing the field of biological control, and updating and developing appropriate regulations are critical for research and implementation.

The United States' current regulations and guidelines for introducing and disseminating biological control agents were written long ago and do not reflect the wealth of knowledge gained in recent years. The need for new regulations is important to the United States' leadership in biological control and supporting those responsible for updating APHIS' regulations is one of Delfosse's highest priorities. APHIS plans to have new regulations implemented on a trial basis sometime in the next year, and NBCI will be involved in their development.

"If we want to facilitate the use of biological control methods," explains Delfosse, "we need to update the

APHIS Biological Control Philosophy

"APHIS believes that modern biological control, appropriately applied and monitored, is an environmentally safe and desirable form of long-term management of pest species. It is neither a panacea nor a solution for all pest problems. APHIS believes that biological control is preferable when applicable; however, we also recognize that biological control has limited application to emergency eradication programs. Wherever possible, biological control should replace chemical control as the base strategy for integrated pest management.

In support of this philosophy, APHIS will develop regulations that facilitate the release of safe

biological control agents, while maintaining adequate protection for American agriculture and the environment. The regulations will give clear and appropriate guidance to permit applicants, including specific types of data needed for review and environmental analysis and specific time limits for Agency review. They will be updated as the science progresses. APHIS believes that public input on procedures to approve the release of biological control agents is a desirable and necessary step and will strive to gather input from scientists, industry, and the public."

—Robert Melland
Aug. 7, 1992

(See *BIOCONTROL* on page 7)

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regulations that may have been appropriate at one time but are outdated now.

"We don't ever want to see biological control stymied in this country because regulations are not scientifically up-to-date," says Delfosse.

All of this may seem like a whirlwind of activity for three full-time scientists, one co-op student, two secretaries, and a clerk typist; and it is. According to Delfosse, there are innumerable needs waiting to be met and never enough time to meet them. He has sought input from biological control interests inside and outside of APHIS to help determine which needs should receive priority. A 12-member User Advisory Panel helps NBCI determine national needs and provides guidance on how to meet them.

As the role of the Institute evolves and expands, one thing is clear: biological control has a permanent place in the world of today and the future of tomorrow.



APHIS PHOTO BY LAURIE SMITH

NBCI staff from left to right: Joseph Hancock, systems operator; Jean Gill, secretary; Heather Foley, office automation clerk; Michael Orazz, technical coordinator; Julie Marquis, secretary; Bob Flanders, technical consultant; and Ernest Delfosse, director.

Health and Safety Information Referral Numbers

Eric Hoffman, Member, The National APHIS Safety and Health Council

Because of the numerous health and safety issues of interest to APHIS employees and the mountains of information and literature available on each subject, the National APHIS Safety and Health Council has been

gathering information numbers as a service to APHIS employees. Anyone can call these numbers for brochures, books, pamphlets, or videos on the subjects that may be of interest to them.

We hope to include additional informational numbers in future editions and welcome any suggestions. Please note that most of the numbers listed are not actual hotlines.

AIDS: (301) 762-5111; (800) 458-5231

Alcohol & Drug Abuse: (301) 468-2600

Allergies and Asthma: (202) 265-0265

Alzheimer's Disease: (301) 652-6446

Cancer: (800) 227-2343; (800) 422-6237

Cerebral Palsy: (202) 269-1500

Cystic Fibrosis: (800) 344-4823; (301) 951-4422

Diabetes: (301) 468-2162

Digestive Diseases: (301) 468-6344

Disabilities: (202) 732-1244

Down's Syndrome: (800) 232-6372; (800) 221-4602

Drugs: (301) 443-3170; (202) 347-6711

Eating Disorders: (800) 227-4785; (800) 762-3334

Environment: (202) 682-5864; (301) 881-6852

Epilepsy: (800) 332-1000; (301) 496-5751

Headaches: (800) 843-2256

Heart Disease & Stroke:

(202) 337-6400; (301) 951-3260

Huntington's Disease: (800) 345-4372

Injuries: (202) 492-6424

Kidney Disease & Incontinence: (301) 468-6345

Liver Disease: (800) 223-0179

Lung Disease: (202) 682-5864; (301) 881-6852

Mental Health: (702) 536-4100; (301) 443-4513

Multiple Sclerosis: (800) 624-8236

Pain: (301) 652-4948

Parkinson's Disease: (800) 327-4545; (800) 344-7872

Retinitis Pigmentosa: (800) 638-2300

Reyes Syndrome: (800) 233-7393

Sexually Transmitted Diseases:

Hotline-(800) 227-8922

Sickle Cell Disease: (800) 421-8453

Smoking: (301) 443-1690

Spina Bifida: (202) 881-8456

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome: (703) 821-8955

Surgery: (800) 638-6833

Lourdes Edlin, Canine Officer, Miami, FL

By Estela Bock,
Public Information, LPA

Ever since she was 10 years old, Lourdes Edlin knew she wanted to train animals when she grew up. Reading books about animal behavior was her passion.

She remembers her father telling her that it was okay to have a hobby but that she should learn something else to make a living. Little did he know that in his daughter's case, her hobby would become her living as well.

Edlin acquired much of her animal experience before joining APHIS. She spent 4 years at the Miami Seaquarium training dolphins and 1 year at Miami's Monkey Jungle Zoological Park training primates.

She began her APHIS career as a PPQ officer in 1989. Only after a dog trainer in Miami talked to her about the detector dog program, did she know she had found the job she had been dreaming about.

Today, Edlin works as a canine trainer, instructor, and handler for PPQ's Southeast Region and is one of three dog trainers APHIS-wide. She trains dogs in Florida, Georgia, and Puerto Rico.

According to Edlin, not all beagles have what it takes to be detector dogs. In fact, many are unable to pass even the first few weeks of training.

Dogs accepted in the program must have an innate desire to sniff. "You can make a dog sit, but you can't make a dog sniff," says Edlin. "They must be encouraged and motivated to sniff out fruits, vegetables, and meats by using positive methods of training and reinforcement. The training is a constant process that takes patience and persistence.

"It typically takes from 3 to 4 months of training to qualify a handler/dog team for the Beagle Brigade and another 6 months for the team to reach a level of field proficiency," she says.

"Dogs don't understand human talk," she elaborates, "but any



APHIS PHOTO BY LAURIE SMITH

Lourdes Edlin and her dog Molly make quite a team.

repeated word or sound serves as a stimulus that mentally connects the trainer with the dog." Edlin has also found that dogs are much easier to train than dolphins and are loyal, accepting, and trusting.

Despite the close relationship developed between dogs and their handlers, the dogs must live in kennels so that their sense of smell remains acute and their ability to discern agricultural products is not confused by household odors. Handlers have the option to adopt their dogs when the time comes for the dogs to retire.

APHIS inspects travelers' baggage to prevent them from bringing into this country prohibited agricultural products, such as fruits, vegetables, and meats, from foreign countries that could introduce exotic animal and plant pests and diseases. Last year, 58,000 pests and diseases were found in prohibited agriculture products that were seized by PPQ inspectors.

APHIS inspectors rely on dog handlers and the noses of the Beagle Brigade to help them look for prohibited agricultural items. Edlin's dog Molly, a 5-year-old beagle obtained from an animal shelter 3 years ago, has proven that she has a nose for agriculture.

When working the airport, Edlin

takes Molly to areas where passengers from international flights are waiting for their luggage or are in line for luggage inspection. If Molly detects any agricultural products, she lets Edlin know by sitting down next to the baggage.

According to Edlin, when she wants to be, Molly can be very persistent. One time, Molly was very eagerly sniffing at a man in the airport who was not even carrying a suitcase. At first, the man was quietly sitting on a chair pretending to ignore Molly. When the man changed places to get away from her, Molly insisted on going after him. Trusting Molly's instincts, Edlin asked the man to accompany her to the inspection room, where she found him to be hiding several bandoliers of sausages tied around his waist. As it turned out, the man was bringing the sausages back for his relatives after a trip to Spain.

"Every day is different," Edlin explains. "There are days when passengers are very happy to see Molly, and there are other days when the airport is very crowded and passengers are irritable.

"Passengers sometimes act defensive or surprised when they see Molly, but, for the most part, they welcome her and are really happy to

(See **LOURDES EDLIN** on page 9)



VS Inspects Olympic Horses Headed for Barcelona

Staff Veterinarian Andrea Morgan of APHIS' Import-Export National Center helped negotiate protocols with Spain and the European Community to allow U.S. Equestrian Team horses into Spain for the 1992 Olympics.

After the Center established the certification necessary for the team to ship its horses, an Equestrian Team veterinarian tested the animals and documented the results.

The certification was then approved by the area veterinarians-in-charge from the home States of team members, and the horses were shipped to Barcelona for competition.



ABOVE PHOTOS BY BILL BARNES

(Top) Hugh McDonald of the William J. Barnes Agency, which specializes in shipping horses, works with groom Noel Solomon to board two horses on a flight from John F. Kennedy International Airport to Frankfurt, Germany, where they met a chartered flight for Barcelona.

(Above) After receiving the bronze team medal, the U.S. Dressage team proudly salutes the standing crowd during their victory gallop around the arena.

(Right) Some of the horses only recently returned to the United States and were held for 60 days at APHIS' quarantine facility in Newburgh, NY, to ensure the animals were free of disease. Jim Silverio, an animal caretaker at Newburgh, leads one of the U.S. Olympic horses to a stall so that its temperature and general conditions can be recorded.



PHOTO BY BETTE MERRILL

Lourdes Edlin from page 8

see her," she says.

As Edlin sees it, the Beagle Brigade program has been very popular with the public and the press. Beagles and their handlers have made lasting impressions on school children at demonstrations as well as on reporters covering the program for a story.

Because of all the attention Molly attracts, Edlin often feels like she is presenting a show or giving a performance. "With all those eyes watching, I always keep in mind the importance of maintaining a professional image," she says.

What could be better than to do what you love to do and get paid for

it? For Edlin, working with the Beagle Brigade is a dream come true. "Now, my father is very proud when he sees me on television because of the work I do with the Beagle Brigade dogs," she says.

"I like working with people and with animals, and this job offered me the best of both worlds," she says.

All Around APHIS

Fish Diagnostic Kits Licensed—

APHIS has issued a veterinary biologics license to DiagXotics, Inc., for two *Renibacterium Salmoninarum* Antigen Test Kits, which are the first tests kits ever licensed for the diagnosis of a fish disease. Lab personnel at the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, IA, evaluated the test kits as part of prelicense requirements.

Lily Leaf Beetle—In July, *Lilioceris lili*, the lily leaf beetle, was found for the first time in the United States in Middlesex County, MA. The beetle, a chrysomelid, was introduced into Canada from Europe and appeared in Montreal in 1943 and Ottawa in 1981. Cultivated lilies are the beetle's preferred host, and the specimens found in Massachusetts were collected from Lillium species

in a backyard planting. An ad hoc meeting of the PPQ New Pest Advisory Committee indicated that the beetle is of minor economic importance, and no immediate Federal regulations are planned.

Asian Gypsy Moth Update—

No Asian gypsy moths have been detected in the United States this season. Although more than 261 moths have been analyzed using the mtDNA technique, all were confirmed as the European strain. Two years of negative trapping are needed in order to verify the eradication of last spring's infestation in the Pacific Northwest.

Red Wolf Recovery Effort—

ADC officials assisted with the endangered red wolf recovery effort by trapping a pair of red wolves re-

leased by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) last year in the Great Smokey Mountains National Park in Tennessee. The wolves were suspected of killing livestock in the area, and FWS officials and National Park Service biologists requested ADC's assistance after they were unable to trap the pair. The wolves will be equipped with radio collars and released at a new location.

New Plant Inspection Station—

On Oct. 22, APHIS opened a new plant inspection station at Orlando International Airport. The 16,000 square-foot facility is the largest of APHIS' 16 stations and is expected to meet the demand created by central Florida's expanding import and export agriculture markets. The products expected to be exported most often from this station are live plants to Europe, while a large volume of tropical plants from Central and South America are expected to be imported.

Human Resources

Reorganization—After many months of discussion and debate, APHIS announced its plans to implement a single, integrated Human Resources (HR) unit. The position of Associate Deputy Administrator of M&B, when filled, will head up this unit and be located in Hyattsville. The Associate will serve as the Human Resources Officer for the Agency and be recognized as a full member of the APHIS Management Team. Deputy Administrator Lonnie King will oversee HR's establishment until M&B's Associate Deputy Administrator position is filled. He will be assisted by Phyllis York, the Acting Head of the Training, Education, and Development Division; George Robertson, the Acting Head of the Personnel Management and Employee Services Division; and John Schneider, the Acting Head of the Organization Development and Consultation Services Division. Together they will formulate a plan for implementing and staffing the unit. As of Monday, Nov. 16, employees began operating under the new structure. In addition, the Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights Division will now be reporting directly to the Administrator's Office.



PHOTO BY NORMA ROSARIO

In June, PPQ officials in San Juan, PR, got to help with the reenactment of history. To commemorate the discovery of America and simulate the route taken by Christopher Columbus 500 hundred years ago, the Grand Regatta Columbus 1992 Quincentenary was organized. The Regatta set sail in April from Lisbon and Genoa and docked in San Juan for a 9-day layover before completing the final leg of the journey. PPQ officials supervised the removal of garbage from the Regatta sailboats during the layover to prevent the introduction of foreign pests and diseases that could pose a threat to U.S. livestock and agricultural products. While in territorial waters of the United States, all garbage must be contained in tight, leak-proof, covered receptacles inside of vessels' guard rails. No violations were found, and PPQ officials ensured that all the garbage was properly disposed by incineration or sterilization.

APHIS Reporter

The following summaries are media reports on APHIS and APHIS-related topics from October. For further information, call LPA's Public Information staff at FTS/(301) 436-7799.

The *Washington Post*, *Washington Times*, and *Wall Street Journal* all reported the deregulation of the **Flavr Savr tomato** and its planned market date of late summer 1993.

According to an Oct. 19 article in the *Washington Post*, the **hydrilla** infestation in the Potomac River near Washington, DC, is abating despite dire predictions that the aquatic weed would clog up the river and impede boat traffic.

The *Associated Press* ran a feature story on Sept. 22 about APHIS' **tick riders** in Texas and emphasized that a recurrence of cattle fever tick could cost the industry approximately 5 billion a year if it were allowed to spread.

According to *Pet Age* and the *Pet Dealer*, the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council and American Professional Pet Distributors, Inc., are fighting to stop a proposed ban on the **export of U.S. puppies into Canada**. The ban would halt the exportation of puppies shipped by USDA "B" dealers in favor of direct shipments by USDA-licensed breeders. Canada has charged that unfit puppies were being dumped on the Canadian market.

In October, *USA Today* reported the **varroa mite** has been found in Rutland and Addison Counties of Vermont. Because the parasite affects honey bees, State officials are concerned about the mite's impact on their apple crop, which depends on the bees for pollination.

Reuters reported that two American animal experts were headed for Bosnia-Herzegovina to help pets, livestock, and zoo **animals caught up in the Bosnia war**. The experts were to spend 2 weeks distributing food and veterinary supplies and contacting local animal welfare agencies to help coordinate relief for the animals during Bosnia's freezing winter.

The *Associated Press* reported the number of cattle infected with **tuberculosis** is increasing and that the recent surge coincides with an increase in Mexican imports. USDA has asked the National Academy of

Sciences to review its eradication program.

According to the *New York Times*, Congress has passed a bill that would sharply reduce the number of **exotic birds** imported into the United States to become pets. The ban would seek to limit the overharvesting of these birds, which has decimated their populations in the wild.

Reuters reported that **salmonella** outbreaks have reached such proportions in Spain that the country's chefs have been banned from serving homemade mayonnaise. Pasteurized, powdered egg yolk is being used as a replacement. Mayonnaise and similar egg products were identified as the culprit in 272 of last year's 620 outbreaks in Spain.



APHIS PHOTO BY KEVIN CONNOR

The Beagle Brigade T-shirt is now available just in time for the Holidays. The shirt was the result of a suggestion made by Debbie Perreira, a Canine Officer in Atlanta's Hartsfield International Airport. Small, medium, large, and extra-large sizes are available, and prices vary according to the quantity ordered. One shirt costs \$11.95, but, if three or more are ordered, they are only \$10.95 each. There is also a \$3.00 shipping and handling charge per order (continental U.S. only, other locations will be more). To order, call 1-800-445-4352 (Mon.-Fri. 8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. EST). Visa, Mastercard, and Discover are all accepted. Mail-in orders should be addressed to Lion Apparel Uniform Group, P.O. Box 1086, Dayton, Ohio 45401. USDA cannot endorse the purchase of the shirt and only personal funds will be accepted as payment. The new T-shirt is proudly displayed here by PPG's Jim Smith, National Coordinator of the Detector Dog Program.

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ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

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